

Subject: Re: Law 360 Article
Date: Fri, 23 Aug 2019 08:45:13 -0400
From: Pamela Pennington - ZM <pamela.pennington@gsa.gov>
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MD5: 7ac1ada8ac54eb993d30f3797e481c55

Thank you!

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On Fri, Aug 23, 2019 at 8:44 AM Kathryn Johnson - ZM <kathryn.johnson@gsa.gov> wrote:

Ex-GSA Chief Of Staff Drank And Had Sex At Office, OIG Says

By [Daniel Wilson](#)

Law360 (August 22, 2019, 5:42 PM EDT) -- The former acting chief of staff at the [U.S. General Services Administration](#) drank alcohol and had sexual relations at the office with a White House staffer in violation of ethics rules for federal employees, according to a watchdog report made public Thursday.

P. Brennan Hart III admitted to both drinking and engaging in sexual activity in the agency's main office after the [GSA Office of Inspector General](#) received a pair of anonymous complaints, the OIG said in its report. The report was completed less than a week before Hart's last day at the GSA on March 12, 2018, but has remained out of public view until now.

"Having sex in the central office building is not an authorized purpose for use by the public," the watchdog said. "Further, there is no law or GSA regulation that allows an employee to have sex in the building."

The OIG and GSA Administrator Emily Murphy both received copies of anonymous letters of complaint against Hart in January 2018, according to the report.

In an interview with the OIG later that month, Hart, who served on President Donald Trump's transition team, admitted to having kept a bottle of vodka in his desk, but said he only consumed it - sometimes with colleagues, including former GSA acting Administrator Timothy Horne - after

normal business hours, the report said. Hart also said he got rid of the bottle after receiving an anonymous complaint letter in July 2017 and consulting with legal staff, the OIG said.

By failing to get written permission to possess and consume liquor, Hart violated rules covering conduct on federal property, the watchdog noted.

Hart also confessed to sharing vodka and engaging in sexual activity with a White House staffer inside the GSA's offices, as well as oral sex on the rooftop of the main office, over the weekend of July 1, 2017, according to the report. Those weekend activities violated ethical standards for executive branch employees regarding the authorized use of government property, as well as perhaps general rules against misconduct, the report said.

The staffer, whose name was redacted in the report, refused to be interviewed, according to OIG.

The OIG did not substantiate a further allegation that Hart had engaged in "inappropriate contact" with White House interns on July 4, 2017.

A GSA spokesperson told Law360 that the agency "holds all employees to the highest ethical standards" and holds mandatory monthly ethics training sessions for political appointees.

"GSA does not tolerate inappropriate use of alcohol in the workplace or any violation of government regulations regarding alcohol," the spokesperson said. "Further, GSA does not tolerate the misuse of government property by any GSA employee."

Hart did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

It was not clear whether Hart resigned from GSA or was fired. The GSA said that it couldn't provide details of his employment beyond his end date.

Hart, who had also concurrently served as associate administrator for congressional and intergovernmental affairs while he was at the GSA, currently runs Three Rivers Solutions LLC, which provides consulting services for government procurement, political campaigns and public relations issues, according to the firm's website. He has been involved in three presidential campaigns and was a senior adviser at the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) during the George W. Bush administration.

--Editing by Alanna Weissman.

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